

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ATHENS 10064 221742Z

42

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-06 /022 W

----- 127581

P 221645Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1857

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 10064

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GR, US

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TOUR OF GREECE

REF: STATE 299500

DEPARTMENT PASS CU DEPUTY ASST. SECY. HITCHCOCK

1. WE WERE DISMAYED TO LEARN OF THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY BOARD'S DECISION TO CANCEL THE ORCHESTRA'S EUROPEAN TOUR BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS. THIS WILL COME AS A RUDE SHOCK TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT, AND IN PARTICULAR TO THE NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATION, IN VIEW OF THEIR EARLIER DECISION TO DEFRAY THE ORCHESTRA'S TRAVEL COSTS ON OLYMPIC AIRWAYS. IT IS ALSO UNFORTUNATE THAT ONLY LAST WEEK THE MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE ANNOUNCED THE APRTICIPATION OF THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY IN THE 1976 ATHENS FESTIVAL.

2. WE ARE INDEED SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT WILL APPEAR TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AS AN UNEXPECTED REBUFF THAT WE WONDER WHETHER THE BOARD'S DECISION COULD STILL BE REVERSED. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE NATIONAL SYMPHONY TO SALVAGE THE ATHENS PORTION OF ITS TOUR EVEN THOUGH OTHER EUROPEAN CONCERTS WERE CANCELLED. THE DEFICIT TO BE COVERED BY THE FUND RAISING MIGHT BE MANAGEABLE IF THE TOUR WAS LIMITED TO THREE CONCERTS IN ATHENS.

3. BOTH GEORGE RALLIS AND TOURISM DIRECTOR DASKALAKIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ATHENS 10064 221742Z

ARE OUT OF ATHENS FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND WE HAVE FOR THIS

REASON BEEN UNABLE TO BREAK THE BAD NEWS TO THEM. IF THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF PERSUADING THE BOARD TO RECONSIDER ITS DECISION AS FAR AS ATHENS IS CONCERNED, WE COULD SOFTEN THE BLOW ACCORDINGLY.

4. AMBASSADOR FEELS STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD MAKE ANOTHER EFFORT WITH THE BOARD. HE SUGGESTS THAT ASST. SECRETARY RICHARDSON OR DEPUTY ASST. SECY. HITCHOCK CONTACT BOARD DIRECT AND ADVISE THEM OF HIS DEEP REGRET OVER CANCELLATION OF ATHENS CONCERTS AND HIS CONCERN THAT BOARD'S ACTION WILL HAVE SHARPLY ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OUR STILL SENSITIVE RELATIONS WITH SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. FOR THESE REASONS, HE HOPES THAT BOARD WILL SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF PARTICIPATING IN THE ATHENS FESTIVAL NEXT YEAR EVEN THOUGH OTHER EUROPEAN CONCERTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED.

5. COMMENT: FYI ASST. SECY. RICHARDSON AND DEPUTY ABB. SECY. HITCHOCK: WE MUCH APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE BEEN MAKING TO ASSURE APPROPRIATE AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ATHENS FESTIVAL. SINCE NATIONAL SYMPHONY'S PARTICIPATION HAS ALREADY BEEN ANNOUNCED, WE WOULD PREFER THEM TO PARTICIPATE AS SCHEDULED RATHER THAN TAKE OUR CHANCES ON AN ALTERNATIVE ATTRACTION. NATURALLY, IF THERE IS NO REPEAT NO HOPE OF PERSUADING NATIONAL SYMPHONY BOARD TO CHANGE ITS MIND WE WOULD LIKE TO FIND--AND BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO FIND--A WORTHY SUBSTITUTE. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT CONCERTGEGOU ORCHESTRA AND ROYAL STOCKHOLM BALLET WILL BOTH BE PARTICIPATING AND THAT USSR IS SENDING MOSCOW STATE ORCHESTRA WITH RICHTER. IF CLEVELAND OR CINCINNATI ORCHESTRAS ARE REAL POSSIBILITIES WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO CONVINCE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO MAKE SAME CONTRIBUTION TO TRAVEL COSTS THAT GOG WOULD HAVE MADE FOR NATIONAL SYMPHONY. FOR OBVIOUS REASONS, HOWEVER, WE WANT TO BE SURE OF OUR GROUND BEFORE DISCUSSING ALTERNATIVES WITH RALLIS OR HIS COLLEAGUES.

6. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
KUBISCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MUSIC, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS10064
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750444-0320
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751220/aaaaarlz.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 299500
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <07 AUG 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA TOUR OF GREECE
TAGS: SCUL, GR, US, NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006